

California Legislature

September 4, 2009

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
State Senate, President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Water Conference Committee

Dear Senator Steinberg:

As members of the legislative delegation for the Sacramento region, we are very concerned about the direction of the legislation currently being considered in the Conference Committee on water issues.

As currently drafted, these bills will require the region's communities to effectively pay to have water taken from them.

Collectively, the bills would require our region's communities to:

- Reduce their water use, making more water available for export to southern California.
- Fight to maintain their water rights before a new "Delta council," "Delta watermaster" and the State Water Resources Control Board;
- Pay fees to fund the Delta Council's operations, with no proportional benefit;
- Pay to implement conservation programs that will not be locally cost-effective and therefore will mainly benefit others.

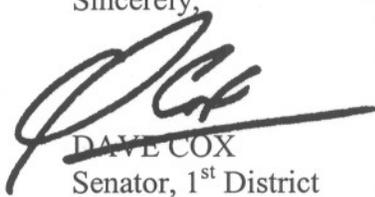
As you know, our region addresses tensions between water uses and environmental concerns in its landmark Water Forum Agreement and the proposed bills would undermine that Agreement.

Our communities' water suppliers participated in good faith in open legislative work groups earlier this year to try to develop solutions to the water-supply crisis faced by southern California and the western San Joaquin Valley, but participation in those groups appears to have had little influence on the bills that the conference committee now is considering.

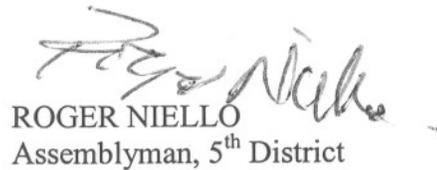
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While we understand the importance of dealing with California's water crisis, the legislation that the conference committee is considering will determine the fate of our region's precious water, the foundation of our quality of life and economic vitality for the foreseeable future. It is imperative that we move forward carefully when crafting this important policy and we urge you to keep in mind the interests of the region you represent.

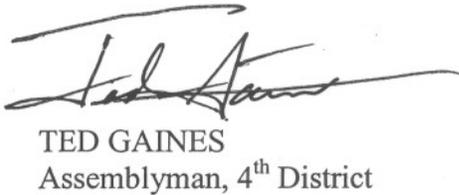
Sincerely,



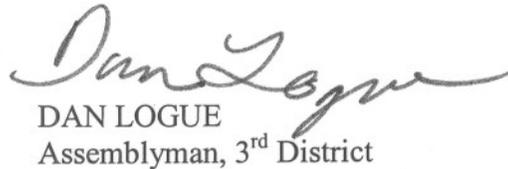
DAVE COX
Senator, 1st District



ROGER NIELLO
Assemblyman, 5th District



TED GAINES
Assemblyman, 4th District



DAN LOGUE
Assemblyman, 3rd District